

CALVARY CONTENDER EXCERPTS

April 7, 2001 (Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org) - The following information is from the April 15, 2001, issue of the *Calvary Contender*. Jerry Huffman is the editor of this bi-weekly paper <contendr@HiWAAAY.net>. The full issues are available on the web at <http://home.hiwaay.net/~contendr> --

MOON'S 'TRUTH' IS FALSE--Unification Church founder Sun Myung Moon says America has been in decline since the end of World War II "because they didn't recognize the truth that was brought to them by Rev. Moon." He claims to share "the ultimate truth, directly from God." (3/19 C. News). He calls his 46-state speaking tour his gift to America. He calls himself a third Adam sent to complete the task of restoring God's kingdom on Earth that Jesus failed in due to his crucifixion. (Calvary Contender, April 15, 2001)

HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVIST IS PRESIDENT OF CALIF. COUNCIL OF CHURCHES--Gwynne Guibord, ecumenical officer of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (a homosexual denom), has been elected president of the California Council of Churches. (Calvary Contender, April 15, 2001)

SBC ENDS TALKS WITH ROME FOR NOW--The Southern Baptist Convention is halting 30 years of doctrinal talks with U.S. Roman Catholics. Though the 1994 SBC meeting endorsed talks with the Catholics, Rev. Philip Roberts, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary says "many Southern Baptists became suspicious of these discussions." Dr. Timothy George, dean of Beeson Divinity School, and like Roberts a participant in the talks on the Baptist side, noted that a small faction of Baptists had "a strong and somewhat strident reaction against this." George said, "Ecumenism is not a high priority for most Southern Baptists." In the letter terminating discussions with the Catholics, Southern Baptists said they would "not rule out the possibility of future meetings." This is not expected to affect local ecumenical relations (3/31 *HT*). Huntsville's First Baptist Church (and others) has been involved in several projects with local Roman Catholic churches. (Calvary Contender, April 15, 2001)

ROME'S NEW ECUMENICAL OFFICER--Pope John Paul II has appointed Cardinal Walter Kasper to head the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, replacing Cardinal Edward Cassidy (*Foundation*). As a progressive in the Catholic hierarchy, he has served as an assistant to controversial theologian Hans Kung, and later sat on the World Council of Churches' Faith and Order Commission. He is praised by WCC head Konrad Raiser and Lutheran World Federation chief Ishmael Noko. (Calvary Contender, April 15, 2001)

POPE'S NEW CULTURAL CENTER--A new \$65 million Pope John Paul II Cultural Center opened last month in Washington (3/24 *Houston Chron.*). The 100,000-sq.-ft. facility has a museum and a Gallery of Mary which unites images of Mary from different cultures. The pope's veneration of the Virgin Mary is echoed throughout the center. (Calvary Contender, April 15, 2001)

NRB WITHDRAWS FROM NAE, ACCEPTS ADVENTISTS; NAE ACCEPTS DUAL CHURCH TIES WITH LIBERAL NCC--What goes here? Last year, under its new pro-charismatic president (Kevin Mannoia), the NAE decided to allow NCC denominations to hold dual membership in the NAE. Then the NRB board this year voted to split from the NAE, citing the NAE's new coziness with the NCC. It said the NAE and NRB are headed in different directions. So which is becoming broader, compromising more? NAE, maybe? But wait. In an ironic twist, NRB board member Dave Clark says: "Our membership is becoming broader than the NAE's. We now admit Seventh-day Adventists..." (3/10 *World*) SDA is a cult (see 2/15/98 *CC*). We defend Dr. Laura against intolerant homosexuals, but she—who is a scheduled guest speaker at the 4/15 NRB Media Breakfast—converted to Orthodox Judaism. So she does not accept our Lord Jesus Christ as God, and thus cannot honor God the Father (Jn. 5:23). Yet the NRB presented her with its Chairman's Award last year. (Calvary Contender, April 15, 2001)

JOYNER A FALSE PROPHET--Rick Joyner is said by many charismatics to be a New Testament prophet who claims to receive regular messages from God. Critics question the validity of his mystical experiences, say his writings border on gnosticism, and are troubled by his association with the Knights of Malta (4/01 *Charisma*). When someone makes a prediction in the name of the Lord and it doesn't happen, he is revealed as a false prophet (Deut. 18:22). Joyner and a ministry colleague predicted on New Year's Eve 1997 that disasters would strike Southern California within nine months. Several warnings were given, with allusions to terrorist attacks and a huge earthquake. Fear swept through charismatic churches in So. California. But nothing happened. Extra-biblical revelation leaves charismatics open for deception. (Calvary Contender, April 15, 2001)

SHERMAN LIBERALISM--The 8/5/83 *Christianity Today* quoted Dr. Cecil Sherman, then a So. Baptist pastor, later the first national Coordinator of the moderate-liberal Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and currently teaching at the liberal Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va., said: "A teacher who might also be led by Scripture not to believe in the Virgin Birth should not be fired....It [the Virgin Birth] is in two Gospels, but not in two others....Did Mark and John make a mistake by forgetting to list it? If the Virgin Birth is desperately important, [Mark and John] must have erred." (3/01 *Baptist Banner*) (Calvary Contender, April 15, 2001)

CHURCHES ARE LEAVING UCC--Many churches are leaving the United Church of Christ and other liberal denominations. From 1996-1999, 131 churches left the UCC—and a third since the 1960s (3/12 *CC*). Reasons? The UCC officially supports abortion, allows practicing homosexuals to serve as pastors, attacks the authority and inerrancy of the Bible and promotes theological liberalism. (Calvary Contender, April 15, 2001)